

REMARKS

Dependent claims 24-57 have been added. A check for the fee to cover the fifteen claims above 20 in number is included herewith.

The Restriction

While in the form of a restriction for lack of unity of invention, in the office action the examiner appeared to have effectively rejected the claims as lacking novelty based on U.S. Patent 3,895,153 (Johnston et al.) and EP 0 275 653 (EP '653). Applicant disagrees and respectfully requests reconsideration.

In the Johnston et al. patent, the "friction-surface" layer is made from a copolymer of ethylene and "olefinically unsaturated monomers such as alkyl acrylates, propylene, vinyl acetate, butadiene, hexadienes, and combination thereof." (See column 5, lines 20-26.) In Example 1 of the Johnson et al. patent, an ethylene ethyl acrylate copolymer is used to form the embossed layer 18. With respect to the polymers used to form the "friction-surface," Johnston et al. are silent, however, with respect to the polymers subject of the pending claims. In particular, Johnston et al. does not disclose i) biodegradable polymers such as polylactide, ii) polyvinyl chloride, or iii) interpolymers of ethylene and vinyl or vinylidene aromatic monomers (e.g., styrene). In view of the foregoing, the examiner incorrectly concluded that claim 1 was anticipated by the Johnson et al. patent. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Turning to EP '653 (attached), it is seen that this reference does not disclose a film, sheet or coating which includes solid fibril-like fringes, as claimed. Rather, EP '653 discloses a melt spun hollow, tubular, substantially cylindrical vascular prosthesis, the wall of which has an interior structure comprising spaced fibrils which are aligned to the axis of the tube. Accordingly, as was pointed out during prosecution of the PCT application, EP '653 neither teaches nor suggests a film, sheet or coating having a fringed

microstructure as claimed. In view of the foregoing, the examiner incorrectly concluded that claim 1 was anticipated by EP '654. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Change of Attorney Docket Number

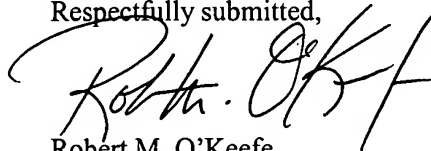
Please note that the attorney docket number has changed from ADVA:004 to ADVA:011. Kindly change the PTO's internal database to reflect this change.

CONCLUSION

The claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt Notice of Allowance are courteously solicited.

No fee is believed to be due; however, should any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 to 1.21 be required for any reason relating to the enclosed materials, or should an overpayment be included herein, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct or credit said fees from or to Deposit Account No. 10-1205/ADVA:011.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert M. O'Keefe", written over a horizontal line.

Robert M. O'Keefe
Reg. No. 35,630
Attorney for Applicants

O'KEEFE, EGAN & PETERMAN, LLP
1101 Capital of Texas Highway So.
Building C, Suite 200
Austin, Texas 78746
512/347-1611
FAX: 512/347-1615